Offices to be placed under the existing Head Post Offices and the proposed Head Post Office is not less than 20 each.

A Head Post Office can also be created in a district if there are 20 Sub Post Offices in that district to be placed under the account jurisdication of the proposed Head Post Office.

In hilly and backward areas, the norms can be relaxed if there is an appreciable advantage in financing the Post Offices by upgradation of a Sub Post Office into a Head Post Office.

Improving Directory Information Service in Andhra Pradesh

3348. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directory information service in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh is of dismal standard;

(b) whether any monitoring has been done of the level of service rendered by the telecom department in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh telecom propose to improve operator response services in rural areas; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. There are 22 SSAs in Andhra Pradesh Circle. Computerisation of Directory information service has been taken in 14 SSAs so far. For the balance SSAs also computerisation will be completed progressively. This will improve directory information service significantly in the SSAs including rural areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to further improve the services during 1997-98 by:—

(i) Augmenting the number of Circuits.

(ii) Replacing overhead medium by stable medium.

(iii) Computerising the Directory Information Service.

Hike in the Tariff of Telephone Calls

3349. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a new tariff has been fixed by the Department of Telephones for a call from a fixed to a mobile telephone;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) the date from the tariff is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the reasons for this hike in the tariff?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copy of the order is enclosed as statement. *(See below).*

(c) Implemented from 15.2.97. However, TRAI recently issued directions which are under examination.

(d) The tariff for fixed to mobile calls in Telecom Circles was fixed for the first time. Since there was no tariff earlier for this service, question of hike in tariff does not arise.

Statement

Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Telecommunications

20, Ashoka Road, Sanchar Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

Dated the 29th Jan., 1997
No. 106-21/96-PHC

To

All GGMs Telecom Circles/Telephone Distts.
CGM, MTNL, New Delhi/Mumbai.

Subject:— *Tariff for calls originated from fixed network (PSTN) to the cellular networks licensed to operate in Telecom Circles.*

Deptt. of Telecommunications has issued licences for operation of cellular mobile telephone service in Telecom Circles. The tariff for calls originated from PSTN to the cellular networks has been fixed as follows:

i. The intra-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rate of 8/162/436 seconds per unit call, irrespective of the location of calling and called subscriber.

ii. The inter-Circle calls will be charged at the pulse rates applicable from the originating TAX to the designated notional TAX in the called Circle, i.e. the usual STD rate upto the called notional TAX.

2. For inter-metro city (Calcutta, Chenni, Delhi & Mumbai) traffic, charging at the pulse rate of 2/468 seconds per unit call will continue.

3 Circle-wise list of notional TAXs is given in the Annexure.

4. With this arrangement the calls among the metro cities and telecom Circles will be changed as inter-Circle calls.

5. These orders will take effect from 15th February, 1997. Necessary technical arrangements may be made in the mean time. This tariff structure may be brought to the notice of public through print media by issue of advertisements at Circle level and also at SSA level immediately. Necessary additions in the tariff information in telephone directories may be carried out for furture publications.

6. Traffic studies will be carried out for a period of one year from the operationalisation of the service, detailed instructions for which will be issued separately.

7. This issues with the concurrence of Finance vide Member (Fin.) Dy. No. 53. dated the 2.01.1997.

Sd/-
(A. K. Mittal)
Director (CS)

Cellular Mobile Tenders for Metro and non-Metro Circles

3350. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department while floating the cellular mobile tenders for non metro and metro circles separately;

(b) the number of bids received for both circles from the cellular operators;

(c) whether the tariff for non-metro circles has abruptly been hiked manifold, causing resentment amongst the operators; and

(d) if so, the details of talks held to remove the impasse and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The salient features of terms and conditions fixed by the department while floating the cellular mobile tenders for metro cities and Territorial. Telecom Circles are given in the enclosed statement I & II *(See* below).

(b) The number of bids received were 30 against tender for metro cities and 158 against Territorial Telecom Circles.

(c) and (d) There has been no change in ceiling tariff for mobile originated calls. However, in the case of calls originated from fixed telephones, a new tariff had been fixed for the first time. This case was heard by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and a decision has been given which is being examined before implementation.